sample will pass through the membrane(s), and c) one or more filtrate receiving vessel(s) such that sample will pass through the membrane(s), and c) one or more filtrate receiving vessels positioned in alignment with the membrane modules, to receive filtrate which has passed through the membranes. Various numbers of membrane modules may be used, stacked upon one another, to remove particles, interferants or other unwanted matter from the sample and/or to capture certain analyte(s) for subsequent elution from the capture membrane and determination by suitable visual or analytical means. The test apparatus may include positive or negative pressure apparatus to create differential pressure within the apparatus for driving the samples through the membranes. Also, these apparatus may have a) specialized pressure equalization ports to ensure efficient and complete processing of all samples, b) selective engagement apparatus for engaging and disengaging the membrane modules and other components to/from one another and to form substantially air tight seals therebetween when assembled, c) specific configurations to allow the membrane modules and other components to nest or register with one another in a manner which facilitates proper orientation and functional positioning of all components, d) specific construction and mounting of membranes to deter tearing or rupture of the membranes during operation, and to maximize the functional surface area of the membrane(s), and e) structural attributes which hold multiple membranes in close-spaced, stacked relation to each other during operation.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 22, as follows:

Figure 13 is an exploded view of an alternative membrane module useable in the apparatus of Figure 12.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 7 as follows:

B3 Figure 15d shows the component of Figure 15c from an angle which allows one to see the underside of that component.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 8 as follows:

B4 Figure 4 shows a block diagram of a general method whereby the test methods and apparatus of the present invention may be used to predict the occurrence of certain changes (e.g. oxidation, other degradation, spoilage) which a sample is likely to undergo within a given time period. These techniques may be used as predictors of shelf life, propensity for oxidative degradation, presence of contaminants, etc. Specific examples of this general method are set forth in detail herebelow.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 19 as follows:

B5 Thereafter, aliquots of the prepared sample are placed in separate vessels. One sample is subjected to a stress (e.g., heat, light, air, etc.) which is known to promote the particular change which is sought to be predicted. (e.g., oxidation, degradation, etc.)

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 27 as follows:

B6 The results of the analyte determinations are then processed by way of an algorithm or formula, to arrive at the desired prediction as to whether the sample will undergo the particular change (e.g., oxidation, degradation, etc.) within a particular time period. Examples of specific algorithms which are useable in this regard are shown in the table of Appendix IV.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 5 as follows:

The elastomeric EM portions of the membrane modules 20, 18 are configured and located to abut against the adjacent membrane module(s) 20, 18 and/or against the adjacent sample port rim 28, to effect a substantially air-tight seal therebetween. The sealing contact between the membrane modules 20, 18 and the sample port rims 28 may be facilitated by the interaction of connector members 40, 42 formed thereon. In this regard, the rims 28 of each sample port 13, and of each secondary membrane module 18, are provided with first connector members such as projections 40. Each primary and secondary membrane module 20, 18 is also provided with corresponding second connector members such as slots 42, into which the first connector members 40 will insert and engage to thereby hold the primary and secondary membrane modules 20, 18 in stacked, sealing contact upon each sample port 13 as shown.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 7, 67-69, 72 and 78 with the following rewritten amended claims:

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for non-electrophoretic determination of the presence of at least one analyte in at least one flowable sample, said apparatus comprising:

a housing having a cavity formed therein;

at least one filtrate-receiving vessel positioned within the cavity of the housing, the filtrate-receiving vessel having an open end;

at least one membrane module positioned over the open end of the at least one filtrate-receiving vessel;

at least one sample-receiving well, each sample-receiving well being positioned in association with one of said membrane components such that sample placed within a particular sample receiving well is filtered through the